



Additional chart coverage may be found in CATP2, Catalog of Nautical Charts.

SECTOR 9 — CHART INFORMATION

SECTOR 9

THE STRAIT OF BELLE ISLE

Plan.—This sector describes Belle Isle and the Strait of Belle Isle, with its adjacent coasts of Labrador and Newfoundland.

General Remarks

9.1 The Strait of Belle Isle, which lies between the NW coast of the island of Newfoundland and the SE coast of Labrador, forms the N entrance to the Gulf of St. Lawrence from the Atlantic Ocean. The Strait of Belle Isle is about 78 miles in length from the N end of Belle Isle to a position abreast **Greenly Island** (51°22'N., 57°11'W.), and 9.25 miles wide at its narrowest point near **Pointe Amour** (51°27'N., 56°52'W.).

For the purposes of this sector, the N limit of the strait is deemed to be a line joining **Camp Islands** (52°10'N., 55°39'W.), the N extremity of Belle Isle, and **Cape Bauld** (51°39'N., 55°25'W.), at the N tip of the island of Newfoundland. The S limit lies between Greenly Island and Nameless Point, 17 miles ESE.

Winds—Weather.—During the summer, dense fogs prevail over the Strait of Belle Isle and sometimes last for several days at a time. Thick fogs are equally prevalent with the wind in either direction. With SW winds the fog commences SW and rolls gradually along the Labrador side, frequently extending only a short distance from the coast.

With NE winds the fog is more general on both sides of the strait, but the Newfoundland side almost invariably clears first. These fogs cling closely to the water and the shore, and from a vessel's masthead the summits of the Labrador hills sometimes, though rarely, can be seen.

Fog increases rapidly in frequency in June over the Strait of Belle Isle and its E approaches, to a maximum in July of over 30 per cent of all observations in the strait. The Belle Isle route is difficult at this season. An improvement takes place in August (18 to 21 per cent), which continues through autumn. At no time, however, does the fog risk fall below 5 per cent. There is a marked diurnal variation in frequency of thick weather. In the Strait of Belle Isle, poor conditions are most frequent in the time of early morning and least frequent between 1400 and 1800.

Ice.—In the Strait of Belle Isle, studies of water motion have revealed back and forth tidal currents on which a dominant flow is superimposed so that for a time the inflow is greater than the outflow, and after an indefinite period the reverse situation develops. The controlling factor is the relative atmospheric pressure to the N and S of the strait. Ice floes respond to these horizontal water movements with the added effects of wind drift and other floes. Consequently, the motion of ice into and out of the strait is quite variable. An examination of monthly mean pressure charts reveals that significant periods of NE wind are very rare in the early winter. Ice drifts into the Gulf of St. Lawrence only occur sporadically in most winters.

Locally formed ice develops in the Strait of Belle Isle in the late December and passage of ocean-going ships is often feasible until about mid-January. After this date, the thickness and extent of the pack in the strait and off the Labrador coast usually makes such passages uneconomic because of the extra time required. During the winter, the pack builds E and may extend as much as 200 miles from Belle Isle by mid-March. Its extent is determined by the onshore or offshore wind component and, as a result, the pack is relatively open with shore leads when it is broadest, and very close and difficult to penetrate when it is narrow.

Early in the winter, the ice in the E approaches to the strait is all of local formation, but wind and current result in a steady S ice drift down the Labrador coast. As a result, the ice present off Belle Isle in March may have originated in the Davis Strait area in November and is thicker than would normally be expected.

The retreat of the pack in spring is very dependent on the wind regime and easy navigation through the strait can begin in early May or be delayed by ice congestion until late June. No escort service has been provided in the area, although, aerial ice reconnaissance does provide information as to when use of the route becomes feasible.

Generally, the bergs that are sighted are small and enter the strait mainly under the combined pressure of strong E winds or icefields. They enter between Battle Harbor and Belle Isle, make a deep circuit into the strait, and pass out again between Belle Isle and Cape Bauld.

Icebergs do not arrive in any great number until after the first of April, but from that time until September (or even October), they are numerous and sometimes very large. June and July are the worst months, but many bergs in recent years have been sighted in the strait during the winter months. Any berg drawing more than 55m can not reach the S end of the strait without breaking up.

Tides—Currents.—The movement of the water in the Strait of Belle Isle is predominately tidal, but it is also complicated by a frequent tendency to greater flow in one direction than the other. This complication, called "dominant flow," may be in either direction for several days in succession or possibly for a week or more, and at times when the tidal current are weak, it may be sufficiently strong to prevent the tidal current from turning at all.

Current observations made simultaneously on opposite sides of the Strait of Belle Isle showed a dominant flow, as follows:

1. On the N side, the total drift in the double tidal period was about 6 miles E and about 15.2 miles W. Thus, there was a residual W set of about 9 miles per day on the N side of the strait.
2. On the S side, the total drift in the double tidal period was about 15 miles E and about 7 miles W. Thus, there was a residual E set of about 8 miles per day on the S side of the strait.

When uninfluenced by dominant flow, the W tidal current runs until 1 hour 41 minutes after HW at Forteau Bay; then it changes to E, and runs with equal strength for a nearly equal period. The currents turn regularly in accordance with the rise and fall of the tide.

Because of the very frequent existence of dominant flow to a greater or lesser extent, it is impossible to predict with accuracy the direction of currents in the strait. Practical indications of direction may be drawn from the presence or absence of floating icebergs in the strait, since there are always icebergs in the offing. If a S current exists, the icebergs will make their way into the strait. If, however, a NE current exists, the strait will be free of icebergs which are afloat.

The only definite time relation of practical value between the tide and the current, which can be deduced, is the time of maximum strength in each direction which averages 1 hour 26 minutes after half tide at Forteau Bay, and shows when a vessel would meet with the greatest or least amount of help or hindrance.

The highest actual current velocities ever observed in the strait were W at 3.5 knots during a flood period and E at 2.5 knots during an ebb period.

The effect of the wind in the Strait of Belle Isle in raising a sea quickly is very noticeable, but any direct effect upon the movement of the water is remarkably slight in a strait so open at both ends.

Aspect.—Belle Isle, which rises in bare hills to an elevation of 152 to 213m high near its center, lies in the middle of the E entrance of the Strait of Belle Isle. Belle Isle is separated from the Labrador coast by a channel 13 miles wide and from Cape Bauld by a channel 14 miles wide. Both channels are navigable.

The Labrador Coast is steep and formed of granite rising to flat-topped ridges and summits 305 to 396m high. Between York Point and **Longue Point** (51°25'N., 57°12'W.), however, sandstone covers the granite formations. The Newfoundland coast is much lower.

The coast between **Cape Norman** (51°38'N., 55°55'W.) and Flowers Island is low and featureless; it is backed by a wooden ridge, about 31m high, upon which are numerous huts and fishing sheds. There are no marks of any kind on this section of the coast suitable for fixing a position. Between Cape Bauld and Cape Norman, the Newfoundland coast is 31 to 152m high.

Traffic Separation Scheme.—For vessels transiting the Strait of Belle Isle, there is a Traffic Separation Scheme in use. This scheme is mandatory and applies to vessels 20m in registered length or more. Mariners are warned that fishing vessels may be encountered proceeding in any direction in or near the traffic lanes and separation zones. The scheme is not IMO-adopted (1995), but the Canadian authorities advise that the principles for the use of routing systems defined in Rule 10 of "The International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea" apply.

Vessel Traffic Service Zone.—The Canadian Coast Guard has established a voluntary Vessel Traffic Service Zone in the Strait of Belle Isle. Vessels required to comply with the Vessel Traffic Service Zone Regulations (see [Pub. 140, Sailing Directions \(Planning Guide\) North Atlantic Ocean, North Sea, Baltic Sea, and the Mediterranean Sea](#) for further information)

are requested to participate in the system by calling "Belle Isle Traffic" on VHF channel 14 when initially in the vicinity of each Reporting Point. The boundary of the Vessel Traffic Service Zone and the locations of the Reporting Points can best be seen on the chart.

Fishing vessels are encouraged to maintain a listening watch or contact "Belle Isle Traffic" to obtain up-to-date information on vessels reported transiting the Belle Isle Vessel Traffic Service Zone.

Caution.—A bank about 15 miles long, with depths of less than 200m, lies about 30 miles ENE of Belle Isle; there is a least depth of 137m on this bank. This bank provides an additional navigational check when approaching the strait in foggy weather. West and SW of this bank, the depths increase again to over 200m before reaching the 200m curve, which lies some 6 to 8 miles east of Belle Isle.

Tooker Bank (51°43'N., 54°59'W.), about 17 miles ENE of Cape Bauld, consists of a series of small banks, the summits of a very uneven ridge. A least charted depth of 10.1m lies near the SE edge of the ridge. Deep-draft vessels should give this patch a wide berth, as it has been reported to break in very heavy seas.

Maudit Bank, 5 miles WNW of Cape Bauld, has a least depth of 13.1m, and the sea breaks over it in heavy weather. Fairway Bank, 0.6 miles NW of Maudit Bank, has a least depth of 29m. In the middle of the south part of the strait, Centre Bank has depths of 40 to 55m.

A local magnetic anomaly has been reported to exist between the SW end of Centre Bank and Cape Norman. A deflection of as much as 3°E has been noted.

With the exception of the above banks and some shoals at the NE end of the strait within 3 miles of the Labrador coast and others close inshore at the SW end of the Newfoundland side, the fairway through the strait is clear of dangers.

Belle Isle and East Approaches

9.2 Cape Bauld (51°39'N., 55°25'W.), the N point of Quirpon Island, is the N extremity of the Island of Newfoundland. Cape Bauld is steep, rocky, and barren, and forms an entrance point for the Strait of Belle Isle. A light is shown from Cape Bauld.

Strong, variable, and eddy tidal currents round Cape Bauld. The tidal currents are W from about 3 hours 30 minutes before to 2 hours 45 minutes after high tide at **Argentia** (47°18'N., 53°39'W.). For the rest of the time they are E. Currents set up by the wind modify these currents considerably.

Belle Isle, which lies in the NE entrance to the Strait of Belle Isle, consists of rocky hills bare of trees. The coastline of Belle Isle is generally steep, with deep water all around the island. On the W and S sides of the island there are numerous places where landing in small boats is possible in calm weather. The E side of the island affords no anchorage. From June to mid-September, the island is frequented by fishermen.

Northeast Point is the N extremity of Belle Isle. A light is shown from Northeast Point.

Anchorage.—Lark Harbor, sheltered by Lark Island, which lies close off the W side of Belle Isle, has depths of 25.6 and 32.9m. The holding ground is only fair and the anchorage is exposed to E winds.

Northeast Ledge, comprising two small rocks, lies 1.2 miles NNE of Northeast Point; the intervening channel is deep.

Black Joke Cove lies on the W side of Northeast Point; it is formed by two low points. The cove provides shelter for two small vessels moored head and stern; local knowledge is required. In heavy E gales, the sea breaks across the reef and renders the cove unsafe.

Wreck Cove (51°58'N., 55°22'W.), on the W coast, is not used for shelter as it is exposed to the N and NW, and also because its inner part is encumbered with above and below-water rocks.

Lark Island, about 37m high, lies about 0.8 mile W of Wreck Cove. A rocky ledge, with a height of 6.1m, extends for about 0.4 mile SW from the island.

Anchorage.—Lark Harbor, lying between Lark Island and Belle Isle, provides shelter for small vessels from June to mid-September. There are depths of 25.6 to 32.9m in its central part. The holding ground is only fair and the anchorage is exposed to E winds.

9.3 Green Cove, entered about 2 miles S of Lark Island, affords fair anchorage and shelter during E winds. There are depths of 31m, sand, between the entrance points, decreasing gradually to the shore.

Wreck Cove (51°58'N., 55°22'W.) on the W coast, has comparatively-deep water, but is not used for shelter as it is exposed to the N and NW, and also because its inner part is encumbered with rocks, above and below-water.

Black Joke Cove (52°01'N., 55°17'W.), Lark Harbor, and Green Cove are not considered safe in the early part of spring or late part of autumn because of the heavy NE swells which roll into them.

Roundhead Rock (51°54'N., 55°26'W.), with a least depth of 4.3m, lies about 0.4 mile off the SW coast of Belle Isle. A depth of 12.8m lies about 0.4 mile W of the SW end of Roundhead Rock.

Range lights, 0.2 mile apart, are shown from South Point, the S point of the island. The lights are in line bearing 028°.

Lighthouse Cove, located 0.7 mile NW of South Point, is used for landing supplies.

Strait of Belle Isle—Labrador Side—The Camp Islands to Chateau Bay

9.4 The coast of Labrador from the **Camp Islands** (52°10'N., 55°39'W.), the N entrance point of the NE entrance to the Strait of Belle Isle, trends SW for about 15 miles to **York Point** (51°58'N., 55°52'W.). This section of the coast consists of bare, granite hills, which with few exceptions do not exceed an elevation of 213m, but they appear much higher because of their steepness. Several large inlets, with steep-to shores and considerable depth, indent this stretch of the coast. When navigating this coast, caution is necessary, not because of islands and dangers, but due to the frequent fogs, the heavy E swell from the Atlantic, and icebergs which frequently drift into the strait with the current.

The NW coast of the Strait of Belle Isle, between York Point and **Greenly Island** (51°22'N., 57°11'W.), located about 3.5 miles SW of the Quebec-Newfoundland boundary, is steep and

formed of granite covered with limestone, rising to flat-topped ridges and summits 305 to 396m.

Tides—Currents.—The Labrador Current sets S at 0.35 knot past the NE entrance of the Strait of Belle Isle and is influenced by the tidal inflow and outflow of the strait.

An inshore current is frequently experienced towards the coast SW of York Point. Off **Pointe Amour** (51°27'N., 56°52'W.) and Forteau Point, 4 miles SW, the currents are very irregular and occasionally reach a rate of 4 to 5 knots.

9.5 The **Camp Islands** (52°10'N., 55°39'W.) are a group of three granite islands and two rocks forming the SE entrance point of Niger Sound. There are several islands and shoals SW of the Camp Islands.

Camp Island Light is shown from the E side of the islands.

Carroll Cove (52°10'N., 55°42'W.) is located along the mainland at the SW entrance of Chimney Tickle.

Table Head (52°05'N., 55°43'W.), about 5.5 miles SSW of Camp Islands SE extremity, is a remarkably isolated headland formed of basaltic columns upon sandstone, flat on top and precipitous.

Eastern Island, the largest of the Peterel Islands, lies about 1 mile SSE of Table Head. The St. Peter Islands lie about 1.5 miles SW of Eastern Island. These islands are black in color with steep cliffs; the rocks and shoals in their vicinity can best be seen on the chart. Allen Shoal, with a depth of 10.9m, on which the sea breaks in heavy weather, lies nearly 1.5 miles E of Eastern Island.

St. Peter Head, 107m high and the S entrance point to St. Peter Bay, is located nearly 2.5 miles W of Eastern Island. Local knowledge is required to enter St. Peter Bay, which provides only fair anchorage, in a depth of 46m, sand, about 0.7 mile from the head of the bay.



Icebergs in Chateau Bay

Chateau Bay

9.6 **Chateau Point** (51°58'N., 55°51'W.), the S extremity of Castle Island, lies nearly 6.5 miles SSW of St. Peter Head. Chateau Bay is entered between Chateau Point and **York Point** (51°58'N., 55°54'W.), nearly 1.4 miles WSW. Castle Island, which forms the E side of Chateau Bay, has a conspicuous, flat-



Henley Harbor

topped, basaltic cap near its N end, which rises almost vertically to 60m. A light is shown from Chateau Point.

Ice.—Chateau Bay generally freezes about the last week of December, and opens about the first week in July.

Tides—Currents.—The MHW interval at Chateau is 7 hours 30 minutes. The mean range is 0.7m; the spring range is 0.9m.

Caution.—The S extremity of Chateau Point is steep-to on its W side, but a shoal extends nearly 0.1 mile S from it. A shoal patch lies about 0.2 mile SSE of York Point; a rocky shoal patch lies 0.3 mile NE of York Point. Halfway Rock, with a depth of 5m, lies about 0.3 mile offshore, in a position about 0.7 mile N of York Point.

9.7 Inner islands of Chateau Bay.—Henley Island lies close NW of the NW end of Castle Island. Black Point is the W extremity of Henley Island. Stage Island, lying close off the SW side of Henley Island, is low and small, and has an 11m hill near its E extremity. Whale Island, with an elevation of 102m, lies at the entrance of Temple Bay.

Temple Bay, entered through Milners Tickle, extends about 3.5 miles in a NW direction and is very deep. Its shores rise steeply from the water, except at its head, where there is a flat of sand and boulders. Milners Tickle separates Whale Island from **Pitts Point** (52°00'N., 55°53'W.) on the mainland and connects Temple Bay with Pitts Harbor and Antelope Harbor. It has a width of about 0.1 mile and a least depth of 7m in mid-channel. To the S of Whale Island, Temple Pass connects Temple Bay to Chateau Bay; the pass lies between two hills and has a width of less than 0.1 mile. The channel has a minimum depth of 5.4m; the bottom is rocky with boulders.

9.8 Harbors within Chateau Bay.—Henley Harbor, which lies between Henley Island and Stage Island, is suitable only for small craft. It is frequented by fishermen, who remain during summer months only for the fishing season.

A swell rolls into the harbor with strong S winds, otherwise, it is reported to be sheltered from all directions.

Antelope Harbor, is entered between Black Point and Grenville Point, 3m high, located about 0.4 mile to the N. Black Rock, 0.6m high, steep-to, and a good mark, lies about 90m W of Black Point.

Strong tidal currents, with rates of 3 to 4 knots, are experienced in the harbor.

Anchorage.—Small vessels can anchor, in about 27.4m, mud, with Grenville Point bearing 310°, distance 0.2 mile.

9.9 Pitts Harbor, entered between Pitts Point and the stony spit extending SW from Barrier Point, is sheltered and provides the best anchorage in Chateau Bay. A good anchorage is available, in 25.6m, mud, with Pitts Point bearing 180°, distant about 0.5 mile.

Directions.—If approaching from the SE, give York Point a berth of more than 0.5 mile and bring the beacon on Grenville Point just open of Black Point, and bearing about 011°. This bearing leads about 0.1 mile W of Twelve Feet Rock, and nearly the same distance E of Flat Island Rock. The latter rock is cleared when the N end of the basaltic cap on Castle Island is seen over the S point of Stage Island.

If a vessel has a light draft and is proceeding to Antelope Harbor and on the 011° bearing mentioned above, and clear of Flat Island Rock, steer to pass about 90m W of Black Rock. When past Black Rock, alter course into the harbor and anchor.

If a vessel has a deep draft, follow the directions given below for Pitts Harbor until past Freezers Rock, or until Black Point bears 082° and the depths increase to over 20m; then alter course NE into Antelope Harbor.

Proceeding to Pitts Harbor, on the 011° bearing and clear of Flat Island Rock, alter course gradually to NNW. The 155° range astern leads between the shoal off Pitts Point and the reef extending from Barrier Point, direct to the anchorage.

The S end of the basaltic cap on Henley Island, open SSW of Black Point and bearing 111°, leads close SSW of the reef extending from Barrier Point.

The dangers in Chateau Bay and in the approaches to the anchorage can best be seen on the chart.

Strait of Belle Isle—Labrador Side—Chateau Bay to Forteau Bay

9.10 Man of War Rock, which dries 1.2m, lies about 0.1 mile off the coast, about 4.5 miles SW of York Point. From York Point the straight bold coast trends SW for about 10 miles to **Wreck Point** (51°51'N., 56°06'W.). A rock, which dries 0.9m, lies about 0.1 mile off the point.

Bay Shoal, with a least depth of 9.8m, rock, lies about 2.5 miles S of Wreck Point. There is a heavy swell on this shoal during E gales, and frequently many ripples. The bottom is occasionally visible at the shallowest part of this patch.

Barge Bay is entered to the N of Barge Point, which is low and lies about 5.5 miles SW of Wreck Point. The bay has a waterfall and a small village at its head. Temporary shelter for small vessels from W winds is available in the bay; local knowledge is required.

Black Bay is entered between East Point, located 4 miles WSW of Barge Point, and a 0.9m high islet located close off a point, about 1 mile SW. A cairn surmounts the 76m hill to the W of the S entrance point of the bay. A conspicuous boulder is a good mark, about 0.7 mile NW of East Point. At the end of the bay, boulders and shallow water front a river mouth. The bay affords temporary anchorage during the summer months for small vessels. An anchorage is available, in 21.9 to 25.6m, but the bottom is sand and the holding ground is not good.

Gull Island, 6.1m high, rocky, and covered with moss, lies about 0.3 mile off the coast, 3 miles SW of East Point. Capstan Cove Point, located 0.7 mile W of Gull Island, is barren and composed of red granite fronted by a few above-water rocks. West Point is located about 2.3 miles SW of Capstan Cove Point. Thistle Rock, over which there is a least depth of 0.9m, lies a little more than 0.5 mile S of Capstan Cove Point; the rock does not show when the sea is smooth, but is marked by a buoy.

9.11 Belles Amours Shoal, with a depth of 9.1m, lies about 1.2 miles to the S of West Point. The Louse, with a least depth of 6.4m, lies about 0.4 mile SE of West Point. A depth of 14.6m lies about 0.4 mile SW of The Louse.

Red Bay is entered between the W extremity of **Saddle Island** (51°44'N., 56°26'W.) and the mainland to the W. The W side of the entrance rises steeply from the shore and in places, is composed of red granite cliffs. Tracey Hill, with an elevation of 151m, dominates this side of the entrance. The E side of the bay rises in a series of hills, varying in elevation between 18.3 to 62.5m.

Red Bay Light is shown from a red tower situated on the hill at the W end of Saddle Island. A fog signal is sounded nearby.

Saddle Island, which provides shelter to Red Bay from the S, is connected with the mainland at its E end by a shoal flat. An overhead power cable, with a vertical clearance of 5.2m, runs from the N shore of Saddle Island NE to the mainland.

9.12 The Harbor, located close N of Saddle Island, has depths of 11 to 18.3m in its central part. The entrance channel has depths of 18.3 to 25.6m in mid-channel. The Basin, with general depths of 20 to 33m, lies to the N of The Harbor. Moore Point, with Penney Island close off it, lies on the W side of the short passage connecting The Harbor and The Basin. The settlement of Red Bay is situated principally on the NE side of The Harbor.

An L-shaped government wharf, with an alongside depth of 12m, is located at Red Bay, opposite Penney Island. A light is shown from the wharf.

Ice.—The Basin of Red Bay freezes over about the end of November while The Harbor freezes over about the middle of December; both remain frozen until the middle or end of May. Field ice remains until the middle or end of June and icebergs may always be encountered.

Tides—Currents.—The MHW interval at Red Bay is 8 hours 41 minutes. The mean range is 0.8m; the spring range is 1m.



Courtesy of Welcome to Labrador Home Page

Red Bay—Penny's Island and Tracey Hill

Directions.—Red Bay is easy to access, but the entrance channel for large vessels into The Harbor is only 0.1 mile wide, and that into The Basin only 90m wide. Approaching from the E, steer for the entrance passing S of Thistle Rock and Scab Rock, about 0.2 mile S of the E end of Saddle Island.



Red Bay from N, with Saddle Island in background

From West Point, the coast continues SW for 3 miles to Carrol Point, which rises to an elevation of 20m.

Caution.—There is a magnetic disturbance in the vicinity of Saddle Island; with an observed variation of 18°52'W. on the summit of the island. The variation on the summit of Penney Island was 33°55'W.

9.13 Carrol Cove, located close N of Carrol Point, affords occasional shelter for small vessels; local knowledge is required.

From Carrol Point the coast, backed by elevations of 45 to 97m, trends SW for 4 miles to Nelly Island, a low and bare island located 0.3 mile off the coast.

Lily Island, the NE entrance point of Pinware Bay, lies 1 mile W of Nelly Island. On Lily Island, 9.1m high, there are some houses and a flagstaff.

Caution.—Soldier Rock, located 0.5 mile SE of Lily Island, comprises two rocks awash and a third shoal head covered with 5.5m of water. The Bank, with a least depth of 11m, lies in the entrance to Pinware Bay, about 1 mile S of Lily Island.

Pinware Bay, entered between Lily Island and St. Modeste Island, about 3.3 miles SW, affords a tolerably safe anchorage in summer though open to SE winds. The bay extends about 1.5 miles NW and is generally deep to within 0.35 mile of its head, where it suddenly shoals. The Pinware River, which has a depth of about 2.4m for 1 mile within the mouth, enters the head of the bay over a shifting bar. A low telegraph wire crosses the entrance of the Pinware River.

St. Modeste Island, 4.6m high and the SW entrance point of the bay, is small and bare. The Tickle is a narrow channel, 90m wide, separating St. Modeste Island from the mainland; it has a least depth of 6.4m in mid-channel. Ship Head, 1.5 miles N of St. Modeste Island, is a conspicuous rocky peninsula. An overhead power cable, with a vertical clearance of 6.7m, crosses The Tickle from the S part of St. Modeste Island to the mainland. The settlement of West St. Modeste is situated on the mainland side of The Tickle.

St. Modeste Light is shown from a white tower situated on the N end of the island. A fog signal is sounded from the light.

There is a T-shaped wharf, with an outer face 27m long, with depths alongside of 5.2 to 6.1m. Entrance to and departure from the wharf is made around the N side of St. Modeste Island. Strong tidal currents set through The Tickle off the wharf.

Anchorage.—Vessels should not anchor near the shifting bar at the river mouth because depths here decrease suddenly. The best berth is in 29.3m, with the NE end of Ship Head bearing 241°, distant 0.4 mile.

Between St. Modeste Island and the NE entrance point of L'Anse au Loup, about 6 miles SW, the coast is indented about midway by Diable Bay, which affords no anchorage. Cape Diable, nearly 1 mile S of St. Modeste Island, is a black bold promontory which rises to a flat-topped hill, about 225m high.

From Diable Bay the coast trends about 2.5 miles SW of the NE entrance point of L'Anse au Loup. This stretch of coast consists of red sandstone cliffs, about 107m high.

9.14 L'Anse au Loup, about 1.5 miles wide at its entrance, extends 1.25 miles NW to its head. This bay has depths of 9.1m within 0.15 mile of the shore in most places. At the head of the bay, there is a sandy beach which fronts the settlement of L'Anse au Loup. At the settlement, the most prominent landmark is a church with a white spire.

There is a public wharf, 84m long, with depths alongside of 4 to 4.9m.

Anchorage.—Although L'Anse au Loup is open to the SE, vessels anchor in the bay at all times during the summer; the holding ground is good. The best anchorage is in the N part of the bay, about 0.3 mile offshore. Vessels should not anchor in depths of less than 18.3m.

Between the SW entrance point of L'Anse au Loup and Pointe Amour, about 3 miles SSW, the coast is free of dangers and steep-to a short distance offshore.

Pointe Amour (51°27'N., 56°52'W.), the NE entrance point of Forteau Bay, is low but rises in a series of terraces faced by cliffs to a hill, 58m high, about 0.8 mile N. Several submerged rocks lie within 0.1 mile of the point. A light is shown on Pointe Amour.



Courtesy of Welcome to Labrador Home Page
Pointe Amour Light



Pointe Amour Light

Forteau Bay (51°28'N., 56°58'W.)

[World Port Index No. 1400](#)

9.15 Forteau Bay, entered between Pointe Amour and Forteau Point, about 4.5 miles SW, extends about 2.8 miles NW to a shallow and drying inlet at its head. The inlet at the head of the bay lies between English Point, to the N, and Buckle Point, about 0.5 mile W. The E side of Forteau Bay is indented by the open bight Anse aux Morts. The holding ground in Forteau Bay is good, but S winds cause a heavy swell. Forteau Light is shown 0.2 mile S of Admiral Point.

Tides—Currents.—In Forteau Bay, in calm weather, the flood tidal current sets NW off the NE shore and SE off the W shore, and the ebb tidal current in the reverse directions. The tidal currents are so weak in the bay that they are influenced both in strength and direction by the wind. Off Forteau Point and Pointe Amour, the tidal currents are strong and very irregular, occasionally running in one direction at a rate of 4 to 5 knots close to the shore, and in an opposite direction a short distance offshore. In sounding of these points during a survey, three distinct currents were met within a distance of 2 miles, the tide rips were of considerable strength, and these irregularities continually changed from unknown causes.

Depths—Limitations.—Forteau Bay has depths of 18.3m or more within 0.4 mile of the inlet at the head of the bay, decreasing to about 3.7m in the entrance of the inlet.

Aspect.—On both sides of the bay the land rises in terraces to hills about 179m high. Chimney Head, on the W side, and Crow Head, on the NE side, are conspicuous lines of cliffs. A

sandy beach is located W of the inlet at the head of the bay, and houses, many conspicuous, are situated behind the beach and along the shore S. A waterfall can occasionally be seen from seaward between the first and second lakes above the inlet at the head of the bay.

Anchorage.—The best anchorage is in the NW part of Forteau Bay, in 20.1 to 21.9m, with **Admiral Point** (51°28'N., 56°58'W.) bearing about 078°, distant 0.4 mile.

Caution.—Great care is necessary in approaching Forteau Bay in foggy weather because of the irregularity and strength of the tidal currents off the entrance points. In addition, the depths close to shore are so great that soundings give but little warning.

A local magnetic anomaly has been reported in the area of Forteau Bay and its approaches.



Courtesy of W. J. McLean

L'Anse au Clair

9.16 The coast trends W to **L'Anse au Clair** (51°25'N., 57°04'W.), a small bay, about 4 miles W of Forteau Point. L'Anse au Clair, a small bight, affords no anchorage.

Between L'Anse au Clair and Pointe Saint-Charles, about 1 mile W, the coast consists of cliffs faced by large slabs of rock; behind the cliffs, flat-topped hills rise gradually to higher ranges inland.

Baie de Blanc-Sablon is a bight in the Quebec coast entered between **Pointe St. Charles** (51°25'N., 57°06'W.) and Lazy Point, about 2.5 miles WSW. A microwave tower, 182m high and marked by red aircraft obstruction lights, lies on Pointe St. Charles.

Baie de Blanc-Sablon usually provides a safe anchorage during the summer; it is partly sheltered by Ile au Bois and Greenly Island, but S winds cause a heavy sea. On each side of the bay, the land rises in cliffs to hills up to 122m high on the NE side and to a flat-topped hill, 104m high, on the NW side. This latter hill extends to the W in a spur which terminates in a sharp bluff, 53m high, on which stands a shrine.

The shores of the bay are generally rocky and fringed with boulders, but at the head there is a sandy beach. The settlement of Blanc-Sablon, with a few small wharves, is situated at the head of the bay.

Ice.—Baie de Blanc-Sablon freezes over about mid-December until about mid-May. Northern ice usually arrives in late December or early January. Pack ice makes in during the winter.

Depth—Limitations.—A wharf, 280m long and 15m wide at the face, with a depth of 7.4m at the outer end, is situated on



Courtesy of W.J. McLean

Blanc Sablon

the W side of the bay. Strong tidal currents are experienced close off the wharf.

Aspect.—Leading lights are shown about 0.7 mile NW of Pointe St. Charles. These lights, in line bearing 063°16', lead to the anchorage.

Oil tanks, conspicuous from seaward, are situated close W of the public wharf.

A light is shown from the outer end of the wharf.

Anchorage.—Vessels can anchor, in 12.8 to 18.3m, sand, with the fall of the cliff on the E side of the Blanc Sablon River, bearing 341°, just open W of the W wharf at Job's Room, and the leading lights aligned.

Caution.—Blandford Shoals, with a least depth of 4.3m, lie near the center of Baie de Blanc-Sablon. A shoal, with a depth of 6.4m, is located in the fairway between Greenly Island and the mainland, about 0.6 mile S of Pointe du Paresseux, the W entrance point of Baie de Blanc-Sablon. Ile au Bois, located S of Baie de Blanc-Sablon, is flat-topped with a maximum elevation of 51m.

9.17 Greenly Island (51°22'N., 57°11'W.), located about 1.5 miles W of Ile au Bois, consists of two hillocks connected by a low plateau, forming a cove on each side of the island. Shoal ground completely surrounds Greenly Island, extending as far as 0.4 mile off the NE and SE sides.

A light is shown on the S part of Greenly Island. A fog signal is sounded about 0.1 mile SE of the light.

Longue Pointe (51°25'N., 57°12'W.) lies about 1.3 miles W of Lazy Point. Longue Pointe is the N entrance point of the S end of the Strait of Belle Isle. The point rises NE to a sharp bluff, 53m high.

Caution.—Rocks and shoals border the shore between Lazy Point and Longue Pointe to nearly 0.5 mile offshore. Perroquet Bank, with a least charted depth of 6.9m, is a series of shoal heads which extends from 1 to 1.7 miles WSW of Longue Pointe.

Strait of Belle Isle—Newfoundland Side—Cape Bauld to Cape Onion

9.18 Cape Bauld to Cape Onion.—The coast of Newfoundland between Quirpon Harbor and Cape Onion, is divided approximately in half by **Cape Artimon** (51°37'N.,

55°32'W.), located about 4.5 miles SW of Cape Bauld. Dangers extend 1.5 miles ENE and 1.75 miles E of Cape Artimon. The stretch of coast between Quirpon Harbor and Cape Artimon also contains Wood Bay, Noddy Bay, Maria Bay, and Medee Bay.

The stretch of coast between Cape Artimon and Cape Onion is entirely indented by Sacred Bay, which is 3.3 miles wide across its entrance and extends 3.5 miles SW. Little Sacred Island and Great Sacred Island, comprising the Sacred Islands, lie in front of Sacred Bay.

Foirou Island (51°39'N., 55°29'W.), a rock 3.7m high, lies about 2.3 miles W of Cape Bauld; a shoal bank, with a least depth of 2.7m and over which the sea breaks, extends nearly 0.3 mile SE of the rock.

Great Sacred Island lies about 1.5 miles NW of Cape Artimon. Near its N end is a summit, 73m high.

Little Sacred Island (51°38'N., 55°32'W.) lies about 1 mile ESE of Great Sacred Island, in a position 0.7 mile N of Cape Artimon. Little Sacred Island is moderately high and steep-to. Its SE end is foul.

Tides—Currents.—Between Quirpon Island and Cape Onion, the inshore tidal currents are irregular, but ordinarily the flood current is WSW. When the wind and the current are in the same direction, the velocity of the current is about 1 knot.

9.19 Quirpon Island, whose extremity is Cape Bauld, is separated from the NE extremity of the island of Newfoundland by a channel about 90m wide. About midway along the E side of Quirpon Island, Cap Degrat rises to 153m, the greatest elevation of the island and of the vicinity.

Quirpon Harbor is located between **Jacques Cartier Island** (51°36'N., 55°27'W.), 41m high, and the W side of the S part of Quirpon Island. The islets are a group of low above-water rocks to the N. The settlement of Quirpon is situated along the S and SW coasts of the harbor.

Ice.—The harbor normally freezes during the middle of December and the ice breaks up the middle of May.

Depths—Limitations.—An L-shaped Government Wharf lies on the mainland, about 0.2 mile WSW of **Vincent Islet** (51°35'N., 55°27'W.). There is a total berthing length of 64m on the W side of the wharf, with alongside depths of 2.9 to 5.5m.

Aspect.—Leading lights are shown on the E side of the harbor, about 0.3 mile within the entrance. In line bearing 109°, the lights lead through the harbor entrance.

Quirpon Light is shown from a tower on the N end of Jacques Cartier Island.

Anchorage.—Anchorage is afforded 0.35 mile N of Vincent Islet, off a wharf on Jacques Cartier Island, in a depth of 13m. Anchorage can also be obtained in Jacques Cartier Road, about 0.2 mile WNW of the islet off another wharf, in a depth of 14.6m.

With local knowledge, good anchorage can be taken in Orleans Cove, 0.4 mile SSE of Vincent Islet, in depths of 12.8 to 14.6m. Vessels should be aware of a 3.7m rock in the approach. This rock lies about 0.2 mile SE of Vincent Islet.

Caution.—An overhead power cable, with a vertical clearance of 21m, crosses between the S tip of Quirpon Island and the mainland.

The coast of Newfoundland is entirely indented by numerous bays between Quirpon Island and bare, rocky Cape Norman, about 17 miles W. The bays offer several anchorages. Cape Onion, 80m high, lies midway on this coast, about 8 miles WSW of Cape Bauld.

9.20 Noddy Bay (51°35'N., 55°29'W.) is entered between **Noddy Point** (51°36'N., 55°28'W.) and Cape Raven, 0.75 mile W. An 11m high islet lies off the E shore of the bay, almost 1 mile SSW of Noddy Point. The cove to the E of this islet affords anchorage for a few small craft, in 5.8m, with good holding ground; local knowledge is necessary.

Hay Cove (Maria Bay), located between Cape Raven and **Cape Ardoise** (51°36'N., 55°31'W.), nearly 1 mile NW, affords no shelter. Cape Ardoise rises to a conspicuous round gray hill, 60m high.

Medee Bay lies between Cape Ardoise and Beak Point, about 1 mile W. To the N of Hay Cove and Medee Bay, there are many islands, rocks, and dangers.

Sacred Bay is entered between Cape Artimon, the NW point of **Warrens Island** (51°37'N., 55°32'W.), and Cape Onion, 3.3 miles W. Cape Onion rises to a height of 80m, and a ledge extends about 0.4 mile E from it, on the NE extremity of which stands The Mewstone, 25m high. Onion Cove lies S of The Mewstone. Sacred Bay is encumbered with numerous islets and shoals. Local knowledge is required.

Ice.—The inner parts of Sacred Bay freeze over in December, and the ice usually breaks up in May.

Anchorage.—Anchorage in Sacred Bay is suitable for small vessels with local knowledge.

From Cape Onion, the coast of steep cliffs trends SW for nearly 3.5 miles to Ha Ha Point.

Ha Ha Bay (57°35'N., 55°43'W.) is entered between Ha Ha Point and Burnt Cape, 1.2 miles W. Piton Point, 1.5 miles SW of Ha Ha Point, is the extremity of a peninsula extending from the SE shore of the bay. Ha Ha Mountain, 70m high, lies 0.8 mile ESE of Piton Point. The W side of the bay is formed by Burnt Island, 68m high, which is connected to the mainland by a narrow isthmus at its S end. Fair anchorage can be taken off Piton Point, in a depth of about 9.1m, but it is open from the NNE.

9.21 Pistolet Bay is entered between **Burnt Cape** (51°36'N., 55°45'W.) and Cooks Point, 4.5 miles WNW. The bay extends about 6 miles S and its shores are indented by several shoal bays. The inner part of the bay freezes over in December; the ice breaks up in May.

Whale Cove, located 1 mile SW of Burnt Cape, is a deep hole in a cliff on the W side of Burnt Island; it is prominent from the NNW and WSW.

Milan Arm is entered between **Milan Point** (51°30'N., 55°43'W.) and Micmac Island, an islet 0.4 mile WSW. The arm trends SE and E for 4 miles to its head, where the Outardes River empties onto the bay. Milan Arm is accessible by vessels drawing less than 4.9m.

Tides—Currents.—The HW interval at Pistolet Bay is 7 hours 29 minutes. The mean range is 0.7m; the spring range is 0.9m. It is reported that a constant current, presumed to be caused by the many currents flowing into Milan Arm, sets to

the W out of the arm. Caution is necessary to avoid being set onto the shoals extending off **Triangle Point** (51°31'N., 55°49'W.).

Schooner Island is the largest of several islands and islets lying near the W shore of the bay. A light is shown from a white tower situated near the N extremity of the island.

Anchorage.—Vessels may anchor in the area 1.5 miles S of **Isthmus Cove** (51°33'N., 55°45'W.), in depths of 7.2 to 11m. There is anchorage, in 9.1m, sand and mud, about 0.8 mile SE of Chien Rock, where the holding ground is fair.

Small vessels may anchor in Milan Arm, in depths of 5.5 to 7.2m. The best anchorage for small vessels is in about 9.1m, sand and mud, 0.6 mile NW of Milan Point. Local knowledge is required to proceed to these small vessel anchorages.

9.22 Cooks Harbor, flanking the NW entrance of Pistolet Bay, is entered between **Black Island** (51°37'N., 55°49'W.) and Cooks Point, the E extremity of a peninsula about 1.5 miles WNW. The NW side of Cooks Harbor is formed by the SE side of the peninsula. A buoy is moored on the E side of the entrance close off the N side of a rocky bank extending from Schooner Island to Black Island. Norman Rock, with a depth of 4.6m, lies on the W side of the approach to the harbor, about 0.7 mile NNE of Cooks Point. There is an 8.5m patch lying in the middle of the entrance. Prosper Island, small, lies in the middle of the harbor.

Anchorage.—Small vessels may anchor, in depths of 7.3 to 11m, sand and mud, in an area SE of **Neige Bay** (51°37'N., 55°52'W.).

Directions.—The entrance of Cooks Harbor is difficult to distinguish from the E because of the uniform height of the land. The summit of Quirpon Island, bearing 091°, astern, and seen midway between Cape Onion and The Mewstone (51°37'N., 55°37'W.), leads to the harbor entrance.

When entering Cooks Harbor, keep on its SE side, passing about 0.3 mile off Green Island, and 0.15 mile off Schooner Island (51°36'N., 55°50'W.). Then alter course to NW and pass about 0.1 mile SW of Prosper Islet. Steer for the NE point of Neige Bay, passing N of the shoals N of **Fauvette Islet** (51°37'N., 55°52'W.), and proceed to the anchorage. There is a least depth of 5.8m in the approach. Buoys, moored about 0.1 mile SE and S of the NE entrance point, mark the NW limit of shoal water at the head of Cooks Harbor.

At the village of Cook's Harbor, there is an L-shaped public wharf, with a depth of 5.1m alongside the 40m long outer face of the wharf. A private wharf, with an outer wharf 36m long, with alongside depths of 1.9 to 2.6m, lies about 0.2 mile SW of the public wharf.

From Cooks Point, the coast trends W for nearly 0.4 mile to an unnamed point, which forms the E entrance to Cape Norman Bay. **Whale Point** (51°37'N., 55°53'W.) forms the W entrance point for this bay. Although there are general depths of 11 to 18.3m in Cape Norman Bay, the bottom is rocky and no safe anchorage is available.

Strait of Belle Isle—Newfoundland Side—Cape Norman to Flowers Island

9.23 Cape Norman (51°38'N., 55°54'W.), about 0.6 mile NW of Whale Point, is bare and rocky, rising to low cliffs; the



Cape Norman Light

N side of the cape is steep. A light is shown from the summit of the cliff, about 0.2 mile SW of the N point of Cape Norman.

From Cape Norman, the coast trends about 37 miles SW to **Flowers Island** (51°19'N., 56°46'W.), the S end of the Strait of Belle Isle. The coast is generally low and featureless, backed by a wooded ridge about 31m high. There are fishing huts and sheds along the shore, but few distinctive landmarks.

Boat Head (51°36'N., 56°00'W.), located 4 miles SW of Cape Norman, with an elevation of 15m, is bare, grassy on top, and faced with conspicuous black cliffs; from its summit the head declines SE to a marshy flat separating Boat Harbor from Open Bay.

Boat Harbor, located close E of Boat Head, provides good shelter for small vessels from W winds, however, local knowledge is essential. The anchorage is unapproachable in NE

winds. The small settlement of North Boat Harbor lies on the S shore of Boat Harbor.

Open Bay, located close SW of Boat Harbor, affords no protection from W winds, however, small boats can find shelter in its shallow NE end during E winds. Between Open Bay and Lower Cove, 2.5 miles SW, the coast is composed of conspicuous black cliffs.

Unfortunate Cove lies nearly 3 miles SW of Lower Cove. The small settlement of Big Brook is situated on the shores of the cove.

9.24 Between Unfortunate Cove and Watts Point, nearly 9 miles SW, the coast is straight and rocky, with occasional low cliffs. At Four Mile Head, 3.7 miles SW of Unfortunate Cove, the cliffs are conspicuously black, with an elevation of 11m. There is a small settlement situated on the shores of Four Mile Cove, which is close S of the headland.

Eddies Cove, 4 miles SW of Watts Point, affords good shelter for small boats inside a ledge of rock close E of **West Point** (51°25'N., 56°28'W.) At the settlement, there is an L-shaped public wharf extending 73m to an outer end 20m long, which has depths of 1.3 to 1.9m alongside. A reef, which breaks, extends parallel to the wharf about 45m off its W side. This wharf is reported to provide some shelter with SW winds, however, it is very exposed with winds from the NE. Close SW, there is a small L-shaped fishing wharf, in disrepair, which dries at its outer end. About 1 mile SW, there is another fishing wharf extending 49m from the shore; it in disrepair and dries at its outer end. Wharf ruins exist off its W side.

Anchorage.—Open anchorage can be obtained 0.3 mile off the coast between Watts Point and Eddies Cove.

The settlement of Green Island Brook is situated on the shores of a cove, about 2.25 miles SW of West Point. An F-shaped public wharf, 114m long extends from the W shore of the settlement to depths of 1.9 to 2.5m alongside the S face of its outer 25 m. The seaward face of the wharf is protected by large boulders. Caution is advised as rocks extend about 10m off the end of the outer face of the wharf. A pier, 14m long and 7.4m wide, is located 21m SW of the outer face. Several small boat wharves and a large blue building are located alongside

the inner end of the public wharf. An L-shaped wharf, with its outer end in ruins, is located about 0.6 mile WSW of Green Island Brook.

9.25 Green Island (51°24'N., 56°34'W.), located about 2 miles W of Green Island Brook, lies 0.75 mile offshore; it is only 3m high. The shoal banks and drying ledges which extend from the island can best be seen on the chart. Green Island Rock, with two shoal heads with depths of less than 1.8m, lie 0.4 mile E of the NE end of the island; the sea breaks on it with any swell.

Anchorage.—Green Island anchorage, between the island and the mainland, affords fair shelter from all but E winds, in depths of 9.1 to 11m. The holding ground is not good, the bottom being hard and stony. The tidal currents at the anchorage attain rates of 1 to 2 knots; the ebb tidal current sets NE and the flood current sets in the opposite direction.

Between Green Island and Savage Point, 6 miles SW, the coast is indented by several coves and is fronted by rocks and shoals as far as 0.8 mile offshore. This part of the coast is low-lying and treeless.

Sandy Cove, located 1.3 miles NE of Savage Point, affords anchorage for small vessels, in a depth of 8.8m, sheltered from winds from the NE, through S to SW; local knowledge is required. There is a settlement on the shores of the cove. A conspicuous white church with a blue roof is situated in the settlement. On the W side of the cove, an L-shaped public wharf extends 82m from the shore. A marginal wharf and a finger pier extend to the S from the head of this wharf.

9.26 Nameless Point (51°19'N., 56°45'W.), about 2 miles SW of Savage Point, is the W extremity of a peninsula separating Mistaken Cove, on the NE, from Nameless Cove, on the SE. It is suitable for small boats. Flower's Island lies in the entrance of Nameless Cove. Flower's Ledge, part of which dries 1.5m, extends WNW of Flower's Island. The tidal currents set strongly over these ledges. A light is shown from a square tower on Nameless Point.

Greenville Ledge, on which the least depth is 0.6, lies about 0.4 mile N of Nameless Point.